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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Bremenham Airfield

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 17 June to 11 September 1953

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 9 October 1953

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. Since the June 17 disturbances, construction work at Bremenham airfield has continued with day and night shifts. In particular, work on the runway has been accelerated. Construction material continuously arrived at the field.
2. In late August 1953, grading work on the landing field was completed. The drainage ditches to be laid at the field are to empty into the Neisse River. Members of the construction staff stated that the location of the airfield was not favorable because of the subsoil water pressure. Concreting work on the section of the runway south of Bremenham-Lodenau road was completed by 11 September except for a strip in the middle. According to a member of the construction staff, the entire runway was to be completed by 15 October 1953. Allegedly, the runway was to be extended to the north and a circular taxiway was to be built and had already been surveyed. However, construction work had not yet started by 11 September.
3. The Lodenau-Noes road was under improvement with the concrete forms having been put in place on one side of the road by 11 September. Concreting work had not yet started. Upon completion of this road, the Bremenham-Lodenau road will allegedly be demolished. Only after the destruction of the latter road will concreting work on the runway strip north of this road be started.
4. In late August, construction work was completed on five small brick buildings, allegedly officers billets, near the park of the Bremenham estate.
5. A spur track was to be built from the Lodenau-Rothenburg railroad line to the field dump. Three standard-gauge locomotives, one from Hoyerswerda and two from Luckau, were used for construction work.
6. The concrete mixing installation was still in operation. However, the special tilting cars of Hungarian make were usually under repair. An estimated 700 laborers including 200 to 250 convicts were employed at the field. They worked in two shifts between 3:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The status of the work was inspected by a Soviet team approximately every two weeks. 1

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7. Since about early September 1953, there has been intensive air activity by aircraft coming from the Polish-occupied German territory to the Soviet Zone of Germany. Almost every evening after nightfall, aircraft crossed over the zonal border and made flights of about 15 minutes duration. Most of the aircraft used were propeller-driven aircraft. 2

8. Work on the runway has been accelerated since late August 1953. Concreting work on the northern third of the runway was started on 8 September. Allegedly, a circular taxiway is to be built in 1954.

9. Work was under way on the Rothenburg-Lodenau road, east of the railroad line. The trees and telephone poles along the Bremenham-Lodenau road were removed and the local residents expected that the road would be blocked approximately in late September. A second spur track was being built from the railroad line toward the woods south of Lodenau. 1

10. Major Mironenko (fnu) who arrived at the Soviet construction headquarters in Werder on 31 August stated that he was now detached to Rothenburg where a Baununion conducted work very badly. He showed a photograph of a concrete cover which consisted of two layers of which the bottom layer was considerably thicker than the top layer and apparently consisted of low-grade concrete because of the color. 3

11. On 1 September, source determined that the extension of the eastern edge of the runway touched both kilometer marker 47.6 of the Rothenburg-Bremenham road and kilometer marker 44.6 of the Bremenham-Lodenau road. The runway strip south of the Bremenham-Lodenau road was completed by 1 September except for a middle strip. Four large dredgers were used for excavation work on a site north of the Bremenham-Lodenau road. 1

1. [REDACTED] Comment. The statements on construction work at Bremenham airfield confirm the previous picture. [REDACTED] and Annax to [REDACTED] For location of reference points, see Map GSCS 4414, sheet 4655. 25X1A

2. [REDACTED] Comment. The aircraft observed probably belong to the Fourth Air Army which is stationed in the Silesian area.

3. [REDACTED] Comment. Major Mironenko is known to be assigned to the Soviet Air Force construction headquarters in Werder. Previously, he also inspected construction work at Brand, Welzow and Cottbus airfields.

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